

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 /085 W
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R 291538Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9617
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: IS, EG, FR, GW, NL, BG
SUBJ: KNESSET DEBATE ON ISRAELI/EGYPTIAN DIALOGUE:
BEGIN CRITICISM OF EUROPE

REF: TEL AVIV 9860 (NOTAL)

1. AN INTERESTING ASPECT OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S
REMARKS DURING THE KNESSET DEBATE NOVEMBER 28 OF THE
ISRAELI/EGYPTIAN DIALOGUE WAS HIS SURPRISINGLY SHARP
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CRITICISM OF SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES -- SURPRISING
BECAUSE IT APPEARED TO BE UNWARRANTED. DURING THE
GENERAL DEBATE FOLLOWING HIS OPENING STATEMENT, MK
GUELA COHEN OF THE LIKUD CHARGED THAT THE ALIGNMENT
WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DECLINE IN THE UNDERSTANDING
OF ISRAEL'S POSITION AMONG WESTERN COUNTRIES. SHE
SAID THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT HAD ONLY BROUGHT OUTSIDE

PRESSURE ON ISRAEL WITH ITS EAGERNESS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS.

2. PICKING UP THE THEME IN HIS RESPONSE AT THE END OF THE DEBATE, BEGIN SAID THE EUROPEANS WERE THE LAST ONES WHO SHOULD OFFER ISRAEL ADVICE. HE ASKED THE FRENCH TO REMEMBER EMIL ZOLA, THE DUTCH TO RECALL ANNE FRANK, AND AS FOR THE GERMANS, THEY ARE "THE LAST WHO SHOULD SUBMIT PROPOSALS THAT MIGHT ENDANGER THE LIVES OF ISRAELI CITIZENS." HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING "LET US (UNDERSCORED) NEGOTIATE; ALL YOUR PROPOSALS AND VOTES HAVE NOT ADVANCED PEACE BY EVEN ONE METER."

3. COMMENT: THIS RATHER UNEXPECTED OUTBURST CAN PERHAPS BE EXPLAINED BY TWO CONSIDERATIONS. FIRST, RECALLING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN IS PRESENTLY VISITING GERMANY AND THAT BEGIN HIMSELF WILL LEAVE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 FOR A VISIT TO BRITAIN, HE PROBABLY WANTED TO SIGNAL THAT HE WOULD NOT WELCOME UNSOLICITED ADVICE DURING THESE VISITS. SECOND, THIS PROBABLY REFLECTS HIS GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WITH WHAT HE BELIEVES TO BE THE LACK OF SUPPORT FROM THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FOR ISRAEL. THIS WOULD INCLUDE THE FRENCH-LED RELUCTANCE TO ISSUE A STATEMENT REGARDING THE SADAT VISIT (SEE TEL AVIV 9676) AND THE ABSTENTION BY THE NINE IN THE RECENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTE REGARDING THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST (SEE USUN 5017).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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